about the lands on the banks of the Vamanapuram river will also be referred to the Peishkar and, on receipt of the Peishkar's final report, the matter will be disposed of.

6. Adoption of measures for remedying the grievances of the inhabitants of Vaikom taluk in respect of *porambokes* and *tharavila*.

Mr. P. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vaikom taluk) stated that the lands now treated as *porambokes* were, in the majority of instances, portions of lands included in the *ayacut* holdings, that there were buildings and trees more than 60 and 70 years old in the lands now treated as *porambokes*, that, in the recent Settlement, reductions in measurements were made so much so that even plots for which tax was being paid were considered as *porambokes*, and that, for the defects and irregularities of the Survey and Settlement officers, the people were required to pay a penalty under Regulation IV of 1091. The people made improvements on such lands in the belief that they formed part of their registered holdings; but they were now being punished under the Regulation for encroachment. Such a procedure was not consistent with the policy of the Government and with the spirit and wording of explanation III under section 3 of Regulation IV of 1091. The procedure followed in finding out *porambokes* was also peculiar. The owner was generally absent when measurements were taken and he came to know of the existence of *poramboke* only on receipt of notice to show cause why he should not be punished for encroachment. Even after the case was filed, he was not given an opportunity to prove that the land was included in the original *ayacut* measurements. Another point to be considered was the duration of the improvements carried out. How long improvements had been carried out had also to be ascertained. That would be an indirect, but conclusive, proof of the fact of long possession. If it was found that the owner regarded the land as his own *bona fide*, he should be exempted from the operation of section 6 of the Regulation. If the land was found to be a real *poramboke*, compensation should be given for the improvements effected. If the land was not required for any public purposes, it should be registered in the occupier's name. If it was considered that the land should be retained as *poramboke*, the cost of improvements should be given or at least the trees should be given on perpetual *kuthagapattom*. Where the improvements were such as could be removed, the occupier should be permitted to remove them.

It has been explicitly stated by the Government while passing the *Puduval* Rules that, in order to encourage ryots to extend cultivation, they were permitted to take up as much land as possible ; and the rules fixed a minimum rate of *tharavila* of Rs. 25 per acre on all reclamations from rivers, canals and backwaters. (*Vide* clause VI of section XI of the *Puduval* Rules dated 24th September 1914). To reclaim an acre of ground from backwaters for cocoanut cultivation, between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500 had to be spent. In short, the total cost of reclaiming land from backwaters for cocoanut cultivation would come to Rs. 4,000 per acre including *tharavila*. It would take at least 6 to 8 years before any return could be expected. Even after the trees had begun to bear, the land would not fetch, if sold, half the capital outlay. Hence the *tharavila* imposed was unduly high.

The classification of reclaimed lands was made in a haphazard way. The *chalu porambokes* adjoining sterile *mundaka* fields were registered only on payment of Rs. 5 to 7 per cent. The *chalu porambokes* should be classed in the same way as the adjoining fields and registry made on recovery of the present minimum rate of *tharavila*.

The Member then made the following suggestions in regard to the fixing of *tharavila* on reclaimed lands:—

1. In addition to the minimum *tharavila*, a maximum rate, which should not be exceeded, should also be fixed, due consideration being paid to the amount of money invested in reclaiming the land.

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2. The classification of a new land and the trees thereon, if any, should be on a par with that of the adjoining lands.

3. The Tahsildars should be required to invariably inspect the lands personally, before fixing the rate of *tharavila* on any *poramboke* lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. Adoption of a uniform rate of *tharavila* on *poramboke* and *puduval* lands in the same Division or Taluk.

Mr. Mathu Ithapiri Tharakan (Member, Kunnathunad taluk) said that, in the matter of registering *tharisu* and *poramboke* lands as *puduval*, the fixing of *tharavila* by Revenue Officers was by no means uniform, that, though the rate fixed by the Government was only Rs. 3 per acre, the officers realised as much as 100 times the above rate, *i. e.* up to Rs. 300 per acre and that, in fixing rates for different lands, no definite principle or policy was followed. That was highly prejudicial to the interests of the people, especially the poor cultivators. The discretion given to the Revenue Officers to levy different rates of *tharavila* gave ample scope to the subordinates of the Revenue Department to oppress the people. The Member, therefore, prayed that a uniform rate of *tharavila* be fixed for the whole State, and if that was considered not feasible, at least for each Division or Taluk, and that *puduval* registries be made on recovery of such a rate of *tharavila*.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. Desirability of realizing the acreage value on Cardamom lands in ten instalments.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetti (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the hardships to which the cardamom ryots and the loss to which the Government were put on account of the raising of the *tharavila* from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre four years ago would have become clear at least now. The yield in cardamom lands had been on the decline for the past 4 years. The price of cardamoms per *thulam*, which was Rs. 56 before, had now gone down to Rs. 15. The cardamom ryots had also to pay income-tax to the British Government. To add to their troubles, the war had also affected them. As a result, the ryots in the cardamom lands had become heavily indebted, the amount of debts in which they were involved varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 30,000. The lands belonging to the cardamom ryots in British India were all being abandoned or sold. The same would have to be done in Travancore also, if they were not relieved of their great hardships. Already, a large extent of land had been allowed to lie waste, because the ryots were unable to obtain the wherewithal for cultivation. The remedial measures suggested by the Member were—

(1) to allow them to pay the *tharavila* of Rs. 25 per acre in 10 or 12 instalments;

(2) to recommend to the British Government the abolition of the income-tax now levied on cardamom ryots in British India; and

(3) to give loans to the ryots at a rate varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 per acre on the security of their land, the usual interest being charged.

A better course, the Member said, would be to reduce the *tharavila* itself to Rs. 10 and order its being realized in 10 annual instalments.

Dewan's reply.—The request of the Member that the British Government should be moved with a view to the income-tax levied by them being cancelled is not feasible. It will not be proper to make such a recommendation and, even if it was made, there was no likelihood of its being sanctioned. The other suggestions are noted.

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